(b) whether it has come to Government's notice that a large number of employees working in rice mills and other factories in Bellary and other Districts are not covered under the Provident Fund Act; and

(c) whether Government would conduct extensive survey and ensure that all employees in establishments with more than 25 employees are covered under the Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The total number of employees covered under the Employees Provident Fund in Karnataka as on 31.3.2003 is 36,53,639.

(b) and (c) The Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is applicable to the establishments employing 20 or more employees. With a view to enforce the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, regular surveys are conducted by collecting information from third party sources *viz.* license providers, service providers, trade unions and other like agencies followed by investigation by intelligence circles specifically constituted for the purpose.

To enroll employees in the rice mills industry, a drive has been launched in Bellary District and the present status of overage of employees in the rice mills in Bellary and Karnataka region is as follows:—

Office	No. of establishments	No. of employees
Bellary	21	445
Karnataka	132	2902

Status of women in new high tech economy

2675. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the new high tech economy is leaving women behind; and

(b) whether women are being encouraged to join better-paying higher status and faster-growing professions such as systems analysts, software designers, engineers etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Due to globalisation and economic liberalisation, fresh employment opportunities have been created in a

number of new areas such as Information Technology, Tourism, Financial Services, etc. With a view to bring about advancement and development of women, a National Policy on Empowerment of Women, 2001 has been adopted with the goal:—

(i) To create an environment through positive economic and social policies for full development of women to enable them to realize their fullpotential;

(ii) The *de-jure* and *de-facto* enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom by women on equal basis with men in all spheres political, economic, social, cultural and civil;

(iii) Equal access to participation and decision making of women in social, political and economic life of the nation;

(iv) Equal access to women to quality education at all levels, career and vocational guidance, employment, equal remuneration, ccupational health and safety, social security and public office etc.;

(v) Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process. Further, a network of Institutes, both under the Central and State Sector have been set up for extending skill facilities to women in different areas, including Electronics Computer Ope'rator and Programming Assistant, Instrument Mechanics, etc.

Special Programme for KBK Region

2676. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has sanctioned two special programmes for KBK zone in Orissa under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the projects that would be taken up with this aid; and

(c) the details of 100 per cent Centrally aided projects sanctioned for KBK to boost economy of this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a Special Plan for the undivided Kalahandi-